

J. Brahms

(1833 - 1897)

VIOLIN AND VIOLA SONATAS • SCHERZO

SONATA FÜR VIOLINE UND KLAVIER Nr. 1, G-dur, op. 78		Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1, in G Major, Op. 78	
1. Vivace ma non troppo		Vivace ma non troppo	11.37
2. Adagio		Adagio	7.32
3. Allegro molto moderato		Allegro molto moderato	8.35
4. SCHERZO FÜR KLAVIER, Es-moll, op. 4		Scherzo for Piano in E flat minor, Op. 4	11.07
SONATA FÜR VIOLA UND KLAVIER Nr. 2, Es-dur, op. 120/2		Sonata for Viola and Piano No. 2, in E flat Major, Op. 120/2	
5. Allegro amabile		Allegro amabile	6.51
6. Allegro appassionato		Allegro appassionato	4.18
7. Andante con moto - Allegro - Più tranquillo		Andante con moto - Allegro - Più tranquillo	6.37

Total playing time: 57.06

- (1-3) Jack Martin Händler - Violine/Violin
Pavol Kováč - Klavier/Piano
(4) Klára Havlíková - Klavier/Piano
(5-7) Rudolf Scholz - Viola
Dieter Goldmann - Klavier/Piano

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Brahms

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Elisabeth von Stockhausen was a piano student of Brahms when she was 16 years old.

However, when Brahms discovered that he was in danger of falling in love with her, he

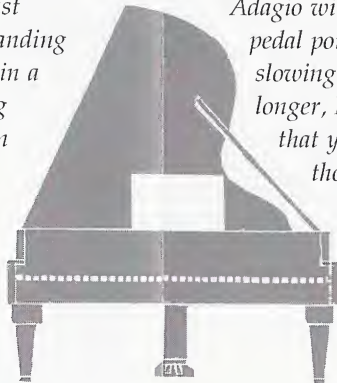
dismissed her as a student but kept the highly intellectual and musically gifted girl as a life-long friend who, besides Clara Schumann, became his most trusted music advisor.

Despite her adoration of the master, Elisabeth von Stockhausen did not hesitate to occasionally criticise his compositions. However, the Violin Sonata No. 1 received only praise.



She wrote enthusiastically to Brahms: "I would prefer to say nothing about your sonata since you must already have had to listen to a great deal of sense and nonsense about it. Of course you are aware that no one can help loving it more than anything in the world and that one becomes addicted to it by just studying and understanding it, by listening to it as in a dream and by becoming completely absorbed in it. The last

movement utterly enmeshes one, its emotional content so overwhelming that one must ask himself whether it



was this piece of music in G minor that has gripped him so or whether something else, unknown to him, has taken possession of his innermost soul. It almost seems as though it were you who invented the dotted eight... When I play the last page of the E flat Major

Adagio with its heavenly pedal point and keep slowing down so that it will last longer, I always think to myself that you can only be a thoroughly good-hearted man."

With this Opus 78, Brahms entered into his most productive and creative period. As



a middle-aged man he was now an accomplished and sovereign master.

Brahms was only 18 years old when he wrote the Scherzo for Piano Op. 4 and it is one of his earliest published works. Liszt played this piece in his circles and was highly impressed by the young composer.

The 1895 Sonata Op. 120/2 was written in the last period of Brahms' life. Originally written for clarinet and piano accompaniment, it is often performed with the viola playing the clarinet part. This is Brahms' last instrumental composition and the finale finishes with an energetic affirmation of life.